

MISCELLANEOUS

DRAWER 11

71 JAN 9 015 05046

ABANDONED LINDSEY BIRTHPLACE
NATIONAL MONUMENT SITE



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Kentucky

Lincoln National Park

Miscellaneous

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

For Immediate Release

Although Abraham Lincoln's birthplace, near Hodgenville, Kentucky, has been a National Shrine since 1916, it was not until last month that the United States government secured documentary evidence proving that the Lincoln family once owned the farm. It was through the efforts of Dr. L. A. Warren, director of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company's Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, that the duly authorized records were made available to the government.

The site of the Lincoln National Park was originally determined entirely by testimonies of old citizens whose affidavits were nothing more than a collection of folk lore and tradition. These people believed that the Lincolns were "squatters" on the land with no title to it. Their affidavits were matched by other testimonials, duly authorized by people living elsewhere, which affirmed that in fourteen other cabins in as many different communities the birth of Lincoln had occurred.

The uncertainty of the location and the lack of documentary data encouraged Dr. Warren to search the public records in several Kentucky counties for evidence relating to Thomas Lincoln's land holdings. After a long period of research covering nearly ten years, he discovered original manuscripts establishing beyond doubt the ownership, exact location, and size of the birthplace farm.

Last month Dr. Warren assisted a representative of the National Park Service in making more than 400 micro films of these early land grants, deeds of conveyance, papers in law suits, and other public records which deal directly with the Lincoln farm in Kentucky.

With the recording of these original records, it is now possible for the United States government to trace the title of the Lincoln farm back to the original patent and establish definitely the original boundaries of the farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born.

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From: The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Fort Wayne, Indiana

New Center News

Lincoln Authority



ROY HAYS who will reveal many interesting facts about Abraham Lincoln at the New Center Exchange Club, Tuesday noon, Huyler's L'Aiglon. (See News Story.)

Exchange Club to Hear Lincoln Student Tomorrow

A recognized authority on Lincoln lore, Roy Hays, will discuss little-known facts about the birthplace and early life of Lincoln at the New Center Exchange Club luncheon, tomorrow noon in Huyler's L'Aiglon, Fisher Bldg.

Mr. Hays, a claim adjuster for the Standard Accident Insurance Company of Detroit, is a member of the Detroit Lincoln Group, the Lincoln Fellowship of Southern California, the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and the Abraham Lincoln Association.

An enthusiastic student of the life of the Great Emancipator, Mr. Hays' is primarily interested in the youthful period of Lincoln's life spent in Kentucky, his birthplace and other family background material. He has devoted a great deal of time over a period of years tracing authentic information concerning the cabin in which the president was born.

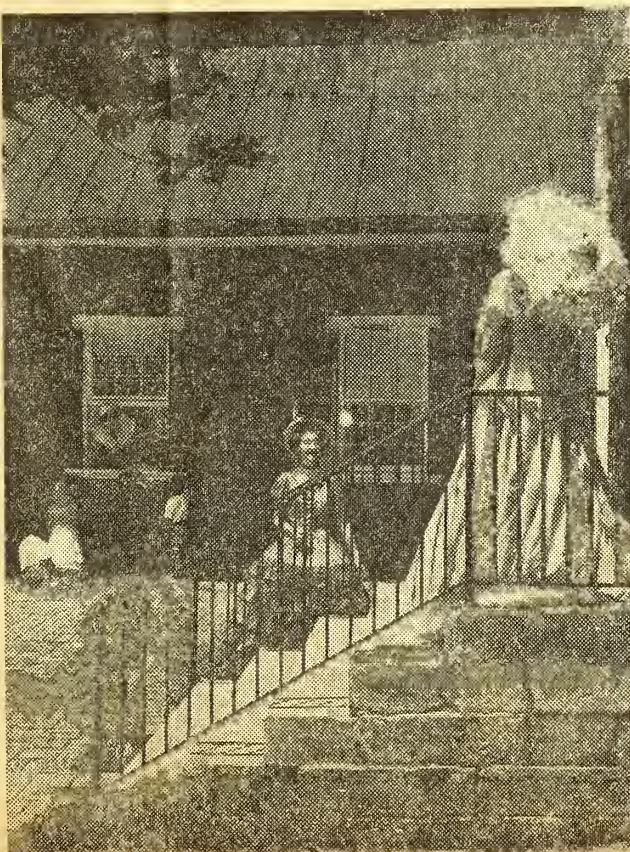
Some Lincoln students have held mental reservations on this subject, and Mr. Hays has come across a letter in the Library of Congress which proves, along with other facts, that the cabin housed in the Memorial Building in Hodgenville, Ky., is not the birthplace of the preserver of the union.

Mr. Hays has titled his talk for tomorrow, "The Truth About the Cabin In Which Lincoln Was Born." The speaker is a long-time resident of Detroit, an insurance claim specialist by profession, an historical student, book collector and public speaker by avocation.



Around Hodgenville are many signs of Lincoln country, for it was here that the martyred president was born and spent his early boyhood. This cabin, believed to be Lincoln's birthplace, is in a memorial building maintained by the National Parks Service.

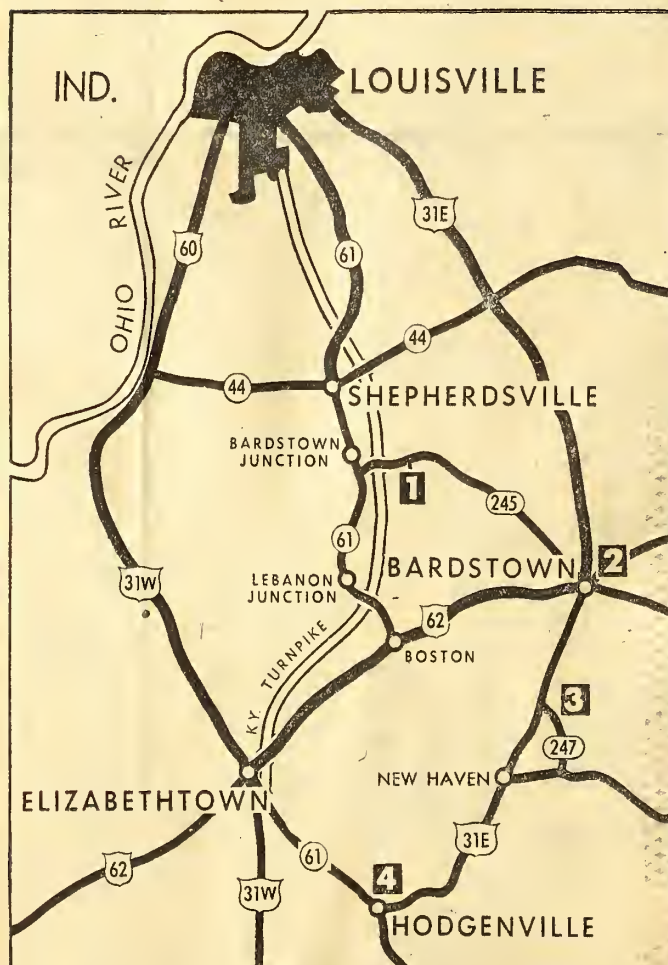
(Right) This is a view of the Bardstown mansion known the world-over as My Old Kentucky Home and immortalized in song by Stephen Collins Foster, in 1818. Foster visited the place in 1852. A play about Foster will be performed here from June 27 to September 7 in an amphitheater.



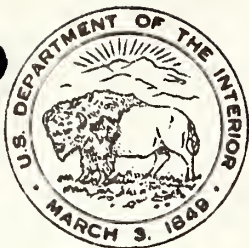
Sunday Drive . . .

THE SONG OF THE OPEN ROAD

With the weather turning pleasant, it's time to pack the lunchbasket, fill up the gas tank, and pile in the young'uns for interesting sight-seeing within easy range of Louisville.



This map shows the routes from Louisville to (1) Bernheim Forest; (2) My Old Kentucky Home; (3) The Trappist Monastery at Gethsemani, and (4) Lincoln Memorial National Park — in all about 150 miles.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

For Release to FM's, MAY 30, 1959

ADDRESS BY CONRAD L. WIRTH, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AT DEDICATION OF VISITOR CENTER, ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, KENTUCKY, AT 2:00 P.M., MAY 30, 1959

MISSION 66 AND THE LINCOLN TRADITION

Seven score and ten years ago, a son of the Kentucky Frontier was born here. He grew into one of the great leaders--not only of our Nation, but of the world.

We are assembled on this land which was his place of birth and the scene of his infancy, to dedicate a means for better understanding of Abraham Lincoln, both as child and man.

"It is altogether fitting and proper" that we should do so at this time and place. The Sesquicentennial observance, of course, is for the 150th anniversary of the birth of Lincoln--not his debates with Douglas, nor the Cooper Institute Speech, or even his elevation to the Presidency. Next to February 12th, Memorial Day seems the most fitting time to observe the birth of the man who delivered on the cold battlefield of Gettysburg the classic tribute to the "honored dead."

We are here today to dedicate a building and its contents to the end of affording a deep and sympathetic understanding of the birth and infancy of our Sixteenth President (dimly or not at all remembered by the man himself).

In constructing this Visitor Center at the birth site of the Martyred President, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service have sought to provide a gathering point where visitors may assemble and draw inspiration from a sense of close kinship not so much with the imposing man, but rather with the child from which he sprang.

This building is not, in itself, a memorial. Lincoln memorials there are in great number: In stone artfully shaped by the likes of Saint-Gaudens, Daniel Chester French and Thomas Ball; in the inspired verse or poetic prose of Emerson, Markham, Sandburg, Whitman; in the cities, towns and counties, in the colleges and universities, which proudly bear the Lincoln name--these are a few. Here at the Birthplace Park there are memorials too: on the hill, enshrining the cabin, the impressive granite-and-marble edifice erected half a century ago by the Lincoln Farm Association with funds from popular subscription. Fittingly, a substantial part of this money was made up of pennies, nickels and dimes--and no doubt a sprinkling of half-dimes then still in limited circulation--from American school children eager to have a part in honoring a great American. Living memorials--surviving witnesses of the momentous day of birth--are here, too--the old Boundary Oak, a grown-up tree even in 1808 when Tom Lincoln and his little family settled here, and the Sinking Spring which, perhaps because of constant movement of its waters, shares with all flowing springs the illusion of being alive.

For a grasp of the mystic significance of this spot, some preparation is needed by most who journey here. To equip the visitor for appreciative insight into the meaning of this historic place and a feeling for it--to set the tone for an adventure into history--that is the purpose of the exhibits on view in this new Visitor Center.

The concept of a Visitor Center, as developed by the National Park Service, is as new as the term itself is new. Avoiding the idea of a memorial on the one hand, and that of a formal museum displaying historic objects for the objects' own sake, on the other, the Park Service Visitor Center uses graphic portrayal to help the visitor leave this building able to interpret history as he finds it written on the land.

In this Center, the visitor first meets an exhibit which traces the coming of the Lincolns to America and the family's westward migration in the 17th to the 19th centuries: to Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and finally to the Kentucky wilderness, then the "Dark and Bloody Ground." As tradition has it, Abraham Lincoln, grandfather and namesake of the future President, was killed by Indians in May 1786, while working in his fields on the Kentucky frontier. His son Thomas, then about 10 years old and destined to become father of the Abraham Lincoln "of the Ages," remained with the body of his father. He was saved by a timely shot by one of his brothers which permanently halted an Indian who was dashing forward to take the scalp of the slain father. Some 75 years later, Abraham Lincoln declared the family story of his grandfather's death "the legend more strongly than all others imprinted upon my mind and memory."

The next exhibit in the Center introduces the visitor to the Kentucky Frontier as Lincoln's people knew it and lived on it--and by its code--at about the time Abraham Lincoln was born. Emphasis is placed on the Elizabethtown-Hodgenville area in which he entered the world and in which he spent the earliest of his formative years. What is essentially portrayed in this exhibit is the rough-hewn way of life which was forever to be associated with Lincoln, in his lifetime and in the democratic legacy which he left his country.

Tom and Nancy Lincoln, parents of Abraham, are highlighted in the next exhibit panel, entitled "Tom Lincoln and Nancy Hanks." They are shown in all their honest simplicity, giving color and understanding of the family's life in Kentucky and lending drama to the birth of the child who was Abraham Lincoln. Tom, described by those who knew him as a quiet man, good natured and obliging, was a true product of the frontier--short on formal education but handy as a carpenter and a "good provider." About Nancy Hanks, the mother, little is known. The haunting, unreal quality which surrounds her memory was beautifully expressed by Lincoln's biographer, Albert J. Beveridge, when he wrote: "Dim as the dream of a shifting mirage, her face and figure waver through the mists of time and rumor."

Tom Lincoln probably met Nancy Hanks in Washington County where she lived with relatives. They were married on June 12, 1806, by Deacon Jesse Head of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Tom was then 26 or 28 years old; Nancy about 23. It seems that this quiet wedding of Tom and Nancy was followed by an "infare"--the

rambunctious housewarming that gave frontier folks the chance to gather, dance, eat, and race for the whiskey jug--not necessarily in that order.

Next to be viewed is an exhibit called "Tom Lincoln Buys a Farm." That farm, on which we are gathered, originally totaled 300 acres on Nolin Creek, which Tom bought for \$200 in the year 1808. The most historically significant one-third of the birthplace farm now comprises Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, having been bought by the Lincoln Farm Association in 1905 and donated to the United States 11 years later.

The Boundary Oak, starting point for the survey of the original 300-acre farm, became the starting point as well for the survey of the boundaries of the park. In the Lincolns' day, and since, people have called this land the Sinking Spring, the Cave Spring, or the Rock Spring farm, for the natural feature which is still as much in evidence as when the Lincolns depended upon it for their water supply.

Life for the Lincolns centered around the one-room log cabin which stood near the Sinking Spring. The cabin could not have been much different from most of the other dwellings of that time and place. Like most frontier mothers, Nancy Lincoln probably was skilled in spinning and weaving, and spent much of her time cutting garments for Tom, their daughters Sarah and the baby, Abe. Linsey woolsey was the fabric she spun, and probably the baby in his simple wooden cradle was covered with a rough woolen blanket made by his mother's hands.

In the corner was a pallet or bed made by a crotched stick in the ground in which the long and short poles rested, with their ends fixed in logs of the cabin walls. Whatever the other furnishings may have been, they were undoubtedly the work of Tom Lincoln's hands. These rude and simple furnishings, together with an axe or two, a plow, a hoe, Tom's carpenter tools, a rifle and a shotgun, a few head of livestock, probably made up most of the family's material wealth. But a friend of Tom Lincoln declared: "It is all stuff about Tom Lincoln keeping his wife in an open shed in the winter. The Lincolns had a cow and a calf, milk and butter, a good feather bed--for I have slept on it . . . Tom Lincoln was a man and took care of his wife."

The Visitor Center next presents a diorama depicting, in three-dimensional miniature, a scene which Carl Sandburg has sensitively described: "On the morning of February 12, a Sunday . . . Tom Lincoln and moaning Nancy Hanks welcomed into a world of battle and blood, of whispering dreams and wistful dust, a new child, a boy . . . A youngster come to see the new arrival, asked Nancy what the boy would be named, and according to tradition Nancy replied, 'Abraham, after his grandfather.'"

The two-and-a-half years the four Lincolns spent on the Sinking Spring farm made no conscious or, at least, retained impression on the child who was born here. But Abraham Lincoln had many memories of the home on Knob Creek farm, 10 miles to the northeast, to which the family moved from here. The Lincolns continued living in Kentucky, at Knob Creek, until the fall of 1816 when Tom took the family across the Ohio River into southern Indiana. Exhibits on the "Kentucky Years" and "Lincoln Tells His Story" (of those years) complete the account related by museum panels and diorama.

The final interpretive feature of the Visitor Center is an audio-visual presentation, "The Lincoln Country", which pictorially and by dramatic narrative, follows Abraham Lincoln from the birthplace to Knob Creek, the departure from Kentucky into Indiana and settlement on Little Pigeon Creek. Here Nancy Hanks, a woman in her middle thirties, grew ill and died, leaving her husband Thomas, her daughter, Sarah, and her son, Abraham, a boy of nine. Here she died, to be buried among the "friendly trees." The narration tells the story then of the Lincolns' move, in 1830, to Coles County in Illinois; of Abraham Lincoln's New Salem days of storekeeping, of his self-taught study and election to the State Legislature in Vandalia. In 1837, Abraham Lincoln, by now a licensed lawyer, moved to the new capital at Springfield where he bought a home and lived with his bride, Mary Todd of Lexington, Kentucky. This was the home Lincoln loved, and which he left only to take up residence in the White House. For here was the end of Lincoln's westward trek. In the Visitor Center, voice and pictures tell us of the Springfield home: "Here ends the Lincoln Country as the private memory of the eyes of one man. Abraham Lincoln moved to become--not of place and time, but of the ages."

This, then, is a story for the ages. Through this fine structure that we are dedicating today it will be preserved and kept fresh and alive to serve as an inspiration to all Americans--not only those of today, but for generations yet unborn.

To those of us who have devoted many years of our lives to the National Park Service it is deeply gratifying to witness, and to take part in, ceremonies such as this one here today.

It is even more gratifying to know that similar scenes, similar dedications of important new visitor facilities are taking place in many parts of America, and as a result our parks, our historic places, are becoming ever more meaningful for the millions of Americans who visit them each year.

This is happening because the National Park Service, with the support of Secretary Seaton, the Administration and the Congress is engaged in the most far-sighted and thorough park conservation program ever undertaken in the history of this country, or of any other.

This program, known as MISSION 66 because the target date for its completion is the year 1966, is designed to provide for the people of America the kind of National Park System they deserve and have a right to expect.

With this dynamic new program, the parks have been rescued from the sad condition of neglect into which they sank under the pressures of the war years, and have become magnets for an ever-increasing flow of visitors.

We in the National Park Service feel that this is a good thing for America. MISSION 66 represents a considerable investment on the part of the Federal Government. But it is an investment in that good citizenship and love of country without which no nation could long endure.

These are the things which Abraham Lincoln did not want to see perish from this earth.

It is in this spirit, then, that I take pleasure in dedicating this Visitor Center in Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park to the ideals of freedom and justice and equality for which that great American fought and died.

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Cabin see May 31, 1906

New York June 6 - June 17, 1906

The lunch box cabin

begun by the Food Fair association for
restoration to its original site started
today on its journey to Hodgenville Ky
on a special train over the Penn. R.R.

The Cabin which has been taken apart
will be committed to the care of Capt

W S Bullitt and a file of five
sides of the First Ky. Inf. by Quartermaster
Frederick E. Jones of the association

The group will appear from the site throughout
the journey. The Cabin will be first recreated
at Louisville as an attraction of the Home
coming week.

